



John L. Salomone
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR STEPHEN WOODS

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Conference Room L-101 Lower Level – Town Hall
7:00 P.M.

March 4, 2014

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Woods at 7:00 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Baume
Councilor Borjeson
Councilor Castelle
Councilor Cohen
Councilor Dinunzio
Councilor Klett – absent
Councilor Marocchini
Councilor Nagel
Mayor Woods

Staff Attendees:

John Salomone, Town Manager
Ann Harter, Finance Director
Lisa Rydecki, Deputy Finance Director
Tom Molloy, Highway Superintendent
Rob Hillman, Assistant Highway Superintendent
Linda Irish-Simpson, Clerk of the Council

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

IV. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

None

V. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Budget Review: Public works (Engineering, Highway, Sanitation)

310 – Engineering

- One employee has a step increase, which accounts for the 2% increase.
- Small overtime amount for flexibility in case during the summer workers needed to do road projects.

Councilor Cohen asked if there could be information given on drainage priorities like road projects priorities. Mr. Salomone explained there were not many drainage projects but would contact the Town Engineer to give the information to the Council.

321 – Highway Administration

- This includes the Superintendent/Assistant Superintendent/Administrative position/part-time clerical position.
- Uniforms & rental: The Town provides uniforms for workers and will change to jeans for the pants. Small charge for that in the beginning.

Councilor Castle asked about the longevity increase, and Mr. Salomone indicated after five years and then each year thereafter there was an increase of \$50-\$100, depending on length of service.

322 – Highway Operations

- Full time salaries within the department are included less administrative. Includes a few employees with some steps.
- Seasonal amount reflects increasing salaries depending on the minimum wage.
- A cut of \$5k was made for catch basin cleaning because of the elimination of sand on the roads.

324 – Snow and Ice

Councilor Dinunzio asked about the snow removal this season and Mr. Molloy indicated it did not matter if the Town received an inch or a foot of snow, they prepare the same for both. Overtime was over budget because of the number and length of the storms but felt all employees did a good job in clearing the roads. They had enough product to treat the roads through the end of the season through good management. Mr. Molloy will give the Council copies of the route maps for the 14 trucks used for snow removal.

- Section included overtime but not straight time
- Enhanced salt is used (average per year: \$123k) and will not be able to stockpile any from this year.

325 – Traffic

- Overtime is included for items like traffic marking at night or call outs for accidents/fire/other emergencies.
- Full time employee cost included
- Equipment maintenance and technical supplies like paint are listed

327 – Vehicles and Equipment

- This section lists costs of maintaining highway equipment, Parks and Rec equipment, Town cars, police and fire equipment. Oil changes are done by Town employees but other maintenance is done by Dattco.
- Overtime costs included in this section
- \$15k more in budget for taking apart and refurbishing a truck from a 2002 bid spec.

328 – Leaf Collection

- No major changes
- This past year collection went well and was able to cut back on overtime.
- Eight seasonal employees are hired to work to supplement the regular crew.

Mayor Woods commended the Highway Department employees for the great job they did clearing the leaves and knew it was not an easy task. He asked what the actual cost for collection was, and Mr. Molloy indicated he would get that information for him.

351 – Refuse Collection

- Percentage of increase due to additional pickup points as the Town grows. There is one more year left in the current contract.

352 – Refuse Disposal

- No major changes

353 – Recycling

- No major changes
- There was discussion on increasing the amount of recyclables the Town collects and cost savings associated with doing that.

B. Budget Review: Community Development and Improvements (Town Planner, TPZ, ZBA, Building Department, Conservation Commission, Economic Development Commission)

420 - Planning and Development

- Mr. Salomone indicated the services of the Planner and the Zoning Enforcement Officer were included along with a reduction due to the expected retirement of the Zoning Enforcement Officer. The new employee would traditionally be paid at a lower starting wage.
- There were funds to be included for a transitional part-time employee who would take over blight inspections and be the enforcement officer until a full time employee was hired.
- There was a request from the planner for \$24k to do a thorough study of Newington Junction for the area around the busway and would work with the community to focus on their concerns and needs with regard to traffic patterns, access, etc.

430 – Planning and Development

- No major changes in the budget.
- Included the cost of recording secretary's salary
- \$7,500 was the amount budgeted for public notices

440 – Zoning Board of Appeals

- No major changes

450 - Building Department

- Budgeted for increase in staff due to the increase in building inspection requests.

460 – Conservation Commission

- No major changes
- Budgeted items include a part time clerk, dues, etc.
- Increase was due to length of meetings and time it takes to transcribe the minutes.

471 – Economic Development

- Originally budgeted for \$41k for 800 hours/year.
- Last year the hours amounted to 1,000 hours or 20 hours per week
- Due to increased hours the salary has been increased to reflect the change.

472 – Development Commission

- No major changes
- Budgeted items include recording secretary, annual breakfast and promotional items.

C. Budget Review: Health

511 – Health Services

- No increase has been received to date from the CT Health District
- Mayor Woods asked the per capita cost and Ann Harter indicated she would get the Council that information.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

VII. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor Cohen mentioned there was a conflict regarding the Human Services Volunteer Recognition Dinner was being held the same night the Council was voting on the budget.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Borjeson made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor Marocchini. The motion passed 8 – 0 (Councilor Klett-absent).

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Irish-Simpson

Linda Irish-Simpson
Clerk of the Council

Cc: T. Lane, Town Clerk